

PROMINENT MEN
ON THE ANXIOUS
BENCH JUST NOWCabinet Builders Are Very Busy
Picking Out Taft's Help-
ers In OfficeSLATE IS BEING MADE UP
BY EXPERT POLITICIANSSecretary Wilson Will Be Retained In
Office, But Secretaries Wright and
Garfield Will Be Succeeded
In Office By Others.

Washington, December 20.—Cabinet builders at the national capital and those who have moved to Georgia as a part of the entourage of President-elect Taft are succeeding in placing on the anxious bench public men in all sections of the country who have been looked upon as aspirants for portfolios or whose qualifications have been urged by admiring friends. The announcement of the appointment of Frank H. Hitchcock to be Postmaster General, followed by that of Senator P. C. Knox to be Secretary of State, and the generally accepted report that George W.ickersham of New York is the choice of Mr. Taft for Attorney General, indicates that the slate is being made up rapidly and that an announcement of the entire cabinet may be expected before many weeks.

From a discussion of the cabinet slate among Mr. Taft's close friends in Washington there seems to be a reasonable certainty that Secretary Wilson will continue for a year or more at the head of the agricultural department; that Secretary Garfield will retire from the cabinet; that Richard A. Ballinger of Seattle, Wash., will be given a place, probably that of Secretary of the Interior; that Luke E. Wright will retire from the cabinet and again take a post in the diplomatic service; and that an Ohio man will be given the position of Secretary of the Treasury. For these posts no selections have been made definitely, although Mr. Taft has men in mind for each.

Within the last few days the name of Charles Nagel of Missouri has been discussed in connection with the secretaryship of the department of commerce and labor. It is known that at one time Judge Taft thought very strongly of naming Nagel as Attorney General, but that after he considered Wickersham more adaptable to the purposes of that department.

Other names heard in connection with that department are those of William Loeb, Jr., secretary to President Roosevelt; Oscar Straus, who now has the portfolio, and George A. Knight of California. It is not believed here, however, that two places will go to the Pacific coast.

Probably the most difficult place remaining to be filled is that of Secretary of the Treasury. Among the Ohio men mentioned are former Gov. Myron T. Herrick and Representative Burton.

For Secretary of War the name of Charles Magoon, now governor of Cuba, is heard frequently.

Knox Has Hopes.

Washington, December 20.—(Special).—Philander Chase Knox will, when he enters Taft's cabinet as Secretary of State, be the third Pennsylvanian to occupy the post and no doubt his friends will see a hopeful augury in the fact that one of his Pennsylvania predecessors as well as five others afterward attained to the presidency. This Pennsylvanian was James Buchanan, who was the premier to the Polk administration from 1845 to 1849 and was elected chief executive in 1856. The second Pennsylvanian to become Secretary of State was Jeremiah S. Black who succeeded Lewis Cass of Michigan in the office toward the close of Buchanan's administration in 1889.

Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, the second Adams, Van Buren, Buchanan and Taft all served as Secretary of State before being elected to the presidency.

As a general thing, however, cabinet portfolios have proved ruinous to further political advancement. With the exception of the cases mentioned above only Monroe and Grant who served as war secretaries under Madison and Johnson attained the presidency. Undaunted, however, Pennsylvania will continue to boom Knox for 1916. He will be 63 in that year.

REHEARING WILL
BE GIVEN TO ROAD

Chicago, December 20.—At the request of the Atchafalaya, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad the interstate commerce commission has agreed to grant a rehearing of the case in which that body ruled against the railroad's right to transport free of charge supplies to hotels along its lines, with which it has contracts. When the rehearing will be begun is not stated. The ruling, if adhered to, it is said, would make it impossible to maintain more than ten hotels which have been established between Chicago and the Pacific coast with a view of taking care of transcontinental travelers on the Santa Fe route. The railroad company explained that it was found impracticable to carry diners clear across the continent, and that it had to provide the hotels for the convenience of the public. Many of the hotels are located in sections which are practically deserts and consequently the supplies have to be carried a long distance.

Million Dollars A Day
Uncle Sam's Sugar Bill

Every Average American Citizen Eats Half His Weight in Sugar During the Year—Amount of Sugar Used Last Year Greater Than Ever Before—Imports Also Greater.

Washington, December 20.—Cold figures gathered by the bureau of statistics show that the average American citizen consumes half his own weight in sugar every year, and Uncle Sam's sugar bill averages \$1,000,000 a day.

A statement issued by the bureau reads more like popular fiction than the ordinary government report. The total consumption of sugar in the United States in 1907, which is the latest year for which statistics are available, reached the almost unthinkable figure of 7,383,977,975 pounds.

The statement shows that 21.3 per cent, or in round numbers 1,511,000,000 pounds of the sugar consumption of the country was of home production; 17.7 per cent, or 1,254,000,000 pounds, was brought from our insular possessions, and the remaining 51 per cent, or 4,367,000,000 pounds, came from foreign countries. Forty-three million pounds was the aggregate of the exportation of sugar from this country.

The United States sugar record for 1907 was unique in that the quantity of that

product imported from foreign countries was larger than ever before; the quantity brought from our island possessions was larger than in any previous year; the quantity produced at home exceeded that of any other year; the quantity exported was larger than in any year of the past decade, and the per capita consumption was the largest ever recorded, an average of 82.6 pounds for each man, woman and child of continental United States.

An equally interesting feature of this record for 1907 was the fact that the production of beet sugar for the first time exceeded the production of cane sugar, the product of the year being: Cane sugar, 644,000,000 pounds; beet sugar, 967,000,000 pounds.

The world's production has practically doubled in the past 20 years, having grown from 17,000,000,000 pounds in 1887 to 32,000,000,000 pounds in 1907, and while the United States consumed about 15 per cent of the total world's production of 1887, it consumed 22 per cent of the greatly increased production of 1907. Beets now supply one-half of the great total produced, while 20 years ago they supplied but about one-third of the total product.

Taft Denies Making Up
Cabinets For Present

Augusta, December 20.—The President-elect said tonight that he was still innocent of being the source of "inspired" or "authoritative" cabinet stories. His cabinet, he said, had acquired no additional members since the Knox announcement, no offers of positions were pending, nor had he made any decisions with respect to making offers.

That a Taft summer colony may be established somewhere on the New England coast is the earnest hope of the President-elect. He tonight said that he had no intention of summering on Long Island; that while no active endeavors were being made at present, it was the desire of himself and brothers to find some place on the New England coast which would be as near as possible duplicate the very desirable conditions the family had so long enjoyed during the summer months at Murray Bay, Canada. There each of the Taft brothers have cottages. If the appropriate place can be found and earnest efforts to this end will be made later, the four brothers, William H., Charles E., Henry W. and Horace D., will locate together, that their outdoor exercise and congenial fam-

ily life and association may be carried on as it has been heretofore.

Mr. Horace Taft owns a place at Wainscott, L. I., but the President-elect said tonight that this was not a desirable place for the plans contemplated, thus confirming what Mr. Horace D. Taft has said himself.

President-elect and Mrs. Taft attended services today at St. Paul's Episcopal church, which was established in its present location in 1735 by the Church of England, which at the time owned the entire site of the city of Augusta. The Rev. Dr. Whitney, the pastor, preached a temperance sermon, as did all other local ministers here today. The laxity of enforcing the state prohibition laws of Georgia is given as the cause of the crusade in Augusta. Dr. Whitney frankly admitted the law to be "bad in part, drastic, and in some respects fanatical," nevertheless, he said, "it is the law and ought to be obeyed. If it is a bad law, its rigid enforcement is the surest means of getting it repealed or amended."

After the services Mr. and Mrs. Taft met many of the church people and spent some time in the ancient graveyard, where are tombstones nearly two centuries old. An automobile ride with Mrs. Thomas occupied the afternoon.

General Antoine Simon
Takes Oath Of Office

Port Au Prince, December 20.—Gen. Antoine Simon, the newly elected President of Hayti, took the oath of office at 10 o'clock this morning at the palace, where a special sitting of the legislative bodies was held and in the presence of the foreign diplomats, the officers of the American and Italian warships and the Haytian officials of state. He repeated the oath in a strong, clear voice. Senator Paulin, who presided at the session of congress which elected General Simon President, officiated and demanded that the President repeat the constitution and the other laws of the republic.

General Hippolyte, the minister of the interior, who responded in behalf of General Simon, promised that every effort

should be made to forward the agricultural and commercial interests of the country and to take measures to insure economies in carrying on the government.

Later at the reception which was held in the salon, M. Carteron, the French minister, addressed the President on behalf of the diplomatic corps and officially presented the respects of the foreign ministers. M. Claude, minister of foreign affairs, gave assurances of the intention of the government to maintain the most cordial relations with all the nations. President Simon then attended a service at the cathedral, where the Te Deum was sung, afterward proceeding on horseback, followed by a brilliant escort, through the principal streets of the city where he was acclaimed by all.

SOME LIVE NEWS
OF CENTERVILLE

Centerville, December 20.—(Special).—The Friday Night Literary and Social club of Centerville met in the parlors of the Wadsworth hotel Friday night. The meeting was one of the most delightful ones in the history of the club. The "Merchant of Venice" was studied. Miss Bevel Avery read a most interesting paper on Bassano, and a character sketch of Portia was beautifully portrayed by Miss Adelle Veazy. Hon. S. D. Logan in a thoughtful manner discussed the character Shylock. An oyster supper was served the members of the club in the hotel dining room.

C. H. Russell, one of the most prominent business men in Memphis, Tenn., is on a visit to his sister, Mrs. Luman Handley Nunnelee of this place.

Miss Lucy Beck who is a student of Shorter college at Rome, Ga., is at home for the holidays with her parents, Col. and Mrs. G. M. Beck.

Miss Bettie Pratt, daughter of Judge W. L. Pratt, came Friday from the Judson college to spend Christmas holidays.

Hon. S. D. Logan and Hon. J. T. Fuller spent most of the last week in Birmingham attending United States court.

Judge W. L. Pratt left yesterday for Hot Springs, Ark., where he will spend several weeks.

Arrangements are being made for an elaborate Christmas tree at the court house here to be given by the several Sunday schools of this place. Circuit Court Clerk R. L. Avery has the affair in charge.

Merchants here say that trade is very dull indeed for the time of year.

Rev. Mr. Riffe recently of St. Joseph, Mo., arrived in Centerville Thursday and will have charge of the Baptist church at this place.

Water Too Low for Steamers.

Memphis, December 20.—On account of the continued low water in the Mississippi river it has been decided by the Lee line management to discontinue the St. Louis packets until a more favorable stage presents itself. In accordance with this decision the Peters Lee, which was to have been the packet in that trade Monday, will not go out.

MAJ. O. J. SMITH
DIES IN NEW YORK

New York, December 20.—Major Orlando Jay Smith, president and general manager of the American Press association since 1882, died at his home in Dobbs Ferry tonight. Major Smith has been ill since September at which time he was operated on for cancer of the stomach, but throughout his illness he retained his interest in daily events.

Major Smith, founder and president until his death of the American Press association, was a prominent figure in American journalism for 40 years. As head of the largest newspaper syndicate in the United States he held relations with publishers throughout the country. Few men were better known in the newspaper world.

After active services in the Civil War, in which he rose from rank of private to major, and a brief experience in cotton planting in Mississippi, Major Smith became editor of the Mail of Terre Haute, Ind. Later he bought the Express of Terre Haute, removing the paper in 1873 to Chicago. In 1882 he founded the American Press association, and from that time until his death Major Smith was the active head of the association.

Major Smith is survived by a son, Courtland Smith, who is vice president and assistant general manager of the American Press.

Railroad Man Dead.

New York, December 20.—John Shelby Barrow, assistant general passenger agent of the Erie railroad, died today at his home in Newark of heart failure, following Bright's disease. Major Barrow, who was born in Baton Rouge, La., 57 years ago, had been with the Erie for 10 years. His early railroad experience was with the Chicago and Northwestern. Mr. Barrow leaves a wife and five children. The burial will be in Nashville.

Suicide in Jacksonville.

Jacksonville, Fla., December 20.—A well-dressed man, supposed to be R. A. Martin of New York city, committed suicide in front of 711 Davis street today. The identity of the suicide was learned from a key ring found by the police. Martin was stopping at a local hotel and no motive is ascribed for the deed.

HARRIMAN CASE
DISASTROUS
EFFECT OF INVESTIGATIONInterstate Commerce Commis-
sioner Clements Speaks

EFFECT OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Clements Says That Questions of
Great Importance Are Decided In
the Answer Made to Harri-
man in the Rate Case.

New Orleans, December 20.—That keen disappointment was caused at least three members of the interstate commerce commission by the recent decision of the United States supreme court declaring that E. H. Harriman should not be required to answer the questions of the commission concerning certain dealings in stocks, is shown in an interview with Judson C. Clements, one of three commissioners who conducted the hearing at New Orleans in the matter of lumber shipments.

In deciding the case of E. H. Harriman and Otto H. Kahn of New York against the interstate commerce commission, the supreme court held that the commission is not entitled under the interstate commerce law to press questions relative to private transactions. The specific case concerned dealings in stocks between the Harrimans and Kahn, the latter a banker, refused to make responses when the subject was under investigation in New York.

Following the announcement of this decision, the interstate commerce commission was credited with having anticipated the opinion of the court. This is denied by Commissioners Clements, Clark and Harlan.

"It is not true, as has been reported, that the interstate commerce commission had anticipated a reverse decision or that it regards as of little importance the decision of the supreme court denying its authority to require testimony except in proceedings on complaint for injunctions," he said, "it is the law and ought to be obeyed. If it is a bad law, its rigid enforcement is the surest means of getting it repealed or amended."

After the services Mr. and Mrs. Taft met many of the church people and spent some time in the ancient graveyard, where are tombstones nearly two centuries old. An automobile ride with Mrs. Thomas occupied the afternoon.

"The commission deemed its effort and position to be clearly in the line of its duties and within the purpose and intent of the law. No desire to criticize the court is entertained, but, manifestly, the scope of effective inquiry and disclosure will be greatly hampered and narrowed by this decision. The wholesome effects of investigation have often been seen in the case of the Panama canal zone, not one cent of insurance is carried. The government has spent \$10,250,000 in buildings in the zone, which takes no account of those purchased from the French nor of the propertied in the buildings. The only protection against fire which the government has for these buildings scattered along a line 50 miles in length is the precautionary measures taken, and in the fire department which has been developed to a splendid state of efficiency. In every large village on the isthmus fire companies have been organized.

In all there are 3338 buildings owned by the isthmian canal commission. With but few exceptions these are of light frame construction. Precautions against fire are taken from the beginning, for no building is erected within 30 feet of a one-story building or within 50 feet of a two-story building.

Frequent inspection is made by a paid fireman in all buildings at least three times a week. Regulations forbidding the collection of inflammable material in or near buildings are strictly enforced. Fires are no more frequent in the dry than in the rainy season, so well are the precautionary rules enforced.

The personnel of the fire department in the canal zone on December 1 consisted of 49 paid firemen and 225 volunteers. The wages of the paid firemen are \$100 a month for the first six months and \$125 a month thereafter. The volunteers are paid \$1 an hour for their services when called to a fire and during drills.

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Views Of Great Nations
On International LawSubjects Handled by the United States Are Acts of Warships
in Seeking Neutral Port in Time of War and Picking up
of Fighting Soldiers During an Engagement.

London, December 13.—The views of the 10 powers, the delegates from which are assembled here to decide upon a code of laws for the international prize court provided for at the last Hague conference, make a decidedly bulky volume. Some of the powers, like Japan, have submitted their proposal in the briefest form, while others, notably Great Britain, support their views with arguments and references to difficulties which British naval courts have given in historical naval cases.

The United States, too, has gone into detail on the various subjects which she thinks should receive consideration, while Germany has submitted a draft code of laws.

The United States, Great Britain and Japan are agreed on the majority of points.

The American suggestions are: War-

ships of the United States of America can seek asylum during war in a neutral port subject to the limitations prescribed by the port authorities.

Such ships must conform to the regulations of the port authorities, regarding length of stay and interval to be observed before going to sea in pursuit of any enemy or after departure of the enemy's ship.

Merchant ships, yachts or neutral vessels carrying or picking up belligerent wounded, sick or shipwrecked, should not be captured on account of such acts, but should still be subject to capture for any violations of neutrality they may have committed. Merchants under escort of warships of their own nationality should be exempt from the right of search on proper assurances being given by the commander of the convoy.

The American views also contain proposals as to contraband and the methods of blockading which are similar to those put forward by Great Britain in a more extensive manner.

Allowances Made For
Transfer Are Rebates

Washington, December 20.—In a decision made public today the interstate commerce commission declares that allowances for the transfer of sugar from refineries to the trains are essentially rebates, and in violation of the law.

This important determination was reached by the commission only after several months of consideration of the matter of allowances for the transfer of sugar and so far as the commission is concerned brings to an end a controversy which has long existed between the refineries in New York and those in Philadelphia.

The investigation of the subject was begun by the commission on its own initiative. No complaint was filed, but what was regarded as the injustice and illegality of the allowances for transfer or cartage were called to the attention of the commission with a view to eliminating them. In its decision the commission lays down four general conclusions as follows:

No Insurance Carried
On Panama Buildings

Washington, December 20.—On the many million dollars worth of buildings owned by the United States government in the Panama canal zone, not one cent of insurance is carried. The government has spent \$10,250,000 in buildings in the zone, which takes no account of those purchased from the French nor of the propertied in the buildings. The only protection against fire which the government has for these buildings scattered along a line 50 miles in length is the precautionary measures taken, and in the fire department which has been developed to a splendid state of efficiency. In every large village on the isthmus fire companies have been organized.

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UNITE STATES
SENATE CHANGES
ARE NUMEROUSScramble Will Be Made In
Pennsylvania for Knox's Place
By Three AspirantsSEVERAL REPUBLICANS
DEFEATED IN PRIMARIESA Democrat May Be Chosen for the
Senate in Oregon and a Landslide
for the Legislature in Indiana